

FO 371/120885

**Political relations between China
and Egypt
(1956)**

00001

F.O.
371

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1987

120885

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

F

C 10316/1

1956

CHINA

FROM Sir H. Evelyn
Cairo

No. 855

Dated May 17

Received in
Registry—

May 18, 1956

References to former relevant papers

Egyptian Recognition of Chinese
RepublicReported in all papers: official
explanation of move.

MINUTES

This move is likely to affect other
countries in the Middle East.D. C. Symon
18/5

(Print)

120885

(How disposed of)

Apr. 26/5
Levant Dept.
East. Dept.
U.N. Dept.
29/5
5/6With attendant complications over
the problem of Chinese representation
in the U.N.

J. May 18.

a) Cairo Tel. 872 - May 19

des

24/5

(Action
completed)

(Index)

JF 2/6

min
16/10/57

References to later relevant papers

10316

47524

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Ref.:THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
FO 371 / 1208851
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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

F

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan
No.855
May 17, 1956.

D.12.54 p.m. May 17, 1956.
R.2.58 p.m. May 17, 1956.

PRIORITY

F 103/6/1

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.855 of May 17
Repeated for information to Peking Washington Paris
Moscow

And Saving to

P.O.M.E.F.

Beirut

Tel Aviv

Amman

Damascus

Tripoli

Ankara

Jedda

Benghazi

Bagdad

Khartoum

U.K. Del New York

Egyptian Recognition of Government of Chinese People's Republic.

All papers today prominently reported the Egyptian Cabinet decision last night to recognize the Government of the Chinese People's Republic. The Egyptian Foreign Minister was reported as saying that Egypt and China would shortly exchange diplomatic representatives.

2. Egyptian official source explaining this move made the following points:

(a) The Government of Chinese People's Republic was the legitimate Government of China and represented 600,000,000 people including 50,000,000 Moslems;

(b) China had participated in the Bandung Conference, the Resolutions of which were in line with Egypt's independent policy (policy of positive neutrality according to Ahram);

(c) Egypt and China had concluded a trade agreement last year and established Commercial Offices.

(d) Twenty-three countries had already recognized China.

3. The Deputy Director of the Chinese Commercial Office in Cairo said he believed diplomatic representation would be at Ambassadorial level.

/4. The Ahram



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Cairo telegram No.855 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

4. The Ahram editorial welcomed new development and commented that Sino-American talks at Geneva indicated that even the United States Government had almost recognized the Chinese People's Republic. Gomhouria described recognition as a diplomatic blow to West, and said Egypt's delay in formally recognizing China had been a gesture of courtesy to the West, but as the West had taken up an attitude undeserving courtesy, Egypt would now follow a frank, realistic policy. If the West recognized Israel, it should not be surprised at Egyptian recognition of China. In recognizing China the Arabs had wisely chosen friendly people who did not conspire against them nor export arms to Israel, but contributed to the preservation of peace in the Middle East.

5. Akhbar noted that as China was not a member of the United Nations, any United Nations embargo on arms would not be applied by her, and said that a Chinese Military Mission would visit Egypt to study Egyptian arms requirements. The *whole* Press gave prominence to M.E.N. report that Nasser yesterday received a message from Chou En-lai in answer to a message sent by him, and that the Egyptian Military ~~Mission~~ *Mission* was expected to visit China within next few days.

Foreign Office please pass priority to Washington and Saving to Ankara, Tel Aviv, United Kingdom Delegation New York, Benghazi and Tripoli as my telegrams Nos.96, 52, 72, 46, 20 and 28 respectively.

[Repeated to Washington and Saving to Ankara, Tel Aviv, U.K. Del. New York, Benghazi and Tripoli].

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TELEGRAM

19086

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DIPLOMATIC WIRELESS SERVICE

MAY 19 1956

E. Shaw

From Cairo to F.O.

From Sir H. Trevelyan

Tel No 872

DWF-B 38 TOR 191827Z GRS 16

Dated May 19 R. 7.43pm 19/5

FROM ROUTINE CAIRO

87219

FC 10316 - 1

C 10316/1. @

MY TEL NO 855 PARA 5. PLEASE READ FINAL SENTENCE QUOTE

WHOLE PRESS GAVE UNQUOTE = TREVELYAN

SENT 191943A JEB

BU Shaw pp rekam.

des

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

FC 10316/2

1956

CHINA

FROM

Mr O'Neill
Peking

Egyptian recognition of China.

No.

281

Dated

1965

Received in
Registry—

21/5

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement
• NCPA People's Daily extracts.

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

D. E. Symon
22/5

1.

African Dept. 14.6/5
Levant Dept. 2
U. N. 29/5

(Print)

The Americans are no doubt much

(How disposed of)

concerned at the effect that these developments
might have on the "moratorium" in
Chinese representation in the U.N.

James Munro
May 22.

Althaus
22/5

(Action
completed)

(Index)

4/16

hm
16/11/57

References to later relevant papers

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FROM PEKING TO FOREIGN OFFICE

FC 10316/2

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. O'Neill
No: 281
May 19, 1956.

FC 10316/1

D: 6.47 a.m. May 19, 1956.
R: 9.41 a.m. May 19, 1956.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 281 of May 19
Repeated for information Saving to: Cairo. Washington.
Damascus. Beirut.

Cairo telegram No: 855: Egyptian Recognition of China.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 17 states that the Chinese Government and people welcome this friendly gesture of the Egyptian Government and that the Chinese Government hope that China and Egypt will speedily establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic envoys. In a letter of May 18 to the Egyptian Prime Minister the Chinese Prime Minister echoes these sentiments and expresses the belief that this further development in Sino-Egyptian relations will be favourable to the future promotion of friendly cooperation between the countries of Africa and Asia.

2. An editorial in the People's Daily of May 19 states that the significance and influence of good relations between China and Egypt will be felt far beyond these two countries and that these relations are an example of the daily increasing solidarity between China and the Arab States and the increasing intimacy between the countries of Asia and Africa in the spirit of Bandung.

"We trust that this development in friendly relations between China and Egypt will have a good influence on the whole Afro-Asian area and will contribute to peace".

3. A New China News Agency report of May 18 from Damascus printed by today's People's Daily states that the Prime Minister of Syria said on May 17 that the recognition of China would be discussed at a meeting of the Political Committee of the Arab League on May 18. It states that newspapers and political personages of all parties in Syria welcomed Egypt's recognition of China. A similar agency report from Cairo states that the Lebanese Minister of Works welcomed the Egyptian recognition of China and said "this corresponds with the interests of Egypt and of all Arab States. The Government of Lebanon and all the other Arab States which have not recognized China should do so as soon as possible".

Foreign Office please pass to Cairo, Washington, Damascus and Beirut as my Saving telegrams Nos: 2, 88, 1 and 1.
[Repeated Saving to Cairo, Washington, Damascus and Beirut]

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

FC 103/16/3

1956

CHINA

FROM A.R.E. Frankel's
Tammari

No. 41 (1063)

Dated 19/5

Received in
Registry— 25/5

References to former relevant papers

3

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

H 17

(Index)

H 16/10/57

References to later relevant papers

Egypt's recognition of Communist China
Discusses the importance of Egypt's recognition
and its consequences in the middle-East.

(Copied w/ton. Cairo, Peking & to Commissioner General for UK in SEK)

MINUTES

There is nothing unexpected in these reactions.

W. E. Symon
25/5

African Dept.
U.N. Dept. 14/6

I doubt but Egypt's
recognition will lead to a
rush by the other members of
the Arab League to recognise
Peking.

Altham
27/5

Ref para 2, there is also the report
that the Russians fooled Nasser into
recognising Communist China by
suggesting that there might be a U.N.
middle East arms embargo, and if so
arms could be obtained via China. See -/8.

H 12/6

H 29/6

48996

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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No. 41 (1063)

ConfidentialBRITISH CONSULATE
TAMSUI

May 19th, 1956.

C10316/3

Sir,

I have the honour to report that Egypt's recognition of the Central People's Government in Peking has come as a shock to the Nationalist Government in Formosa. Under a thin veil of indifference, it is feared privately that some of the Arab League members may follow suit at a later date. Both Chinese Nationalists and Americans locally are inclined to see in this move not only a strengthening of the Communist position in the Middle East but also, and from their point of view more seriously, a potential threat to the Nationalist position in the United Nations. As already reported, the great majority of Americans locally consider that any change in the Chinese representation at the United Nations would mean a tremendous prestige victory for Communism in South East Asia and be highly damaging to what is left of the Western cause.

2. The Nationalist Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Hollington Tong, is reported as saying that, "When the Soviet bloc offered arms to Egypt, there was a condition, namely that Egypt should recognise Red China". Most Chinese Nationalists are entirely convinced that all international moves of this kind are made on a closely coordinated Sino-Soviet basis.

3. The local Nationalist press has also bitterly criticised Nehru as the man who probably influenced Colonel Nasser more than anyone else. Nehru is widely regarded by both officials and intellectuals as the tool and ally of Communism in Asia and the Middle East. Egyptian policy in one editorial is described as neither independent nor neutral and as having been subjected to much pressure from Moscow and New Delhi.

4. On the 17th of May, the Nationalist Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement: "In view of the decision taken by the Egyptian Government on May 16th 1956 to recognise the bogus Peiping regime, the Government of the Republic of China hereby declares officially that the Republic of China severs, as from today, May 17th, 1956, its diplomatic relations with the Republic of Egypt and is taking steps to withdraw its Ambassador and diplomatic mission stationed in Cairo".

5. There is no Egyptian representation in Formosa. There are no Egyptians resident and there is little trade between Egypt and Formosa.

6. I am sending a copy of this despatch to H.M. Representatives at Washington, Cairo and Peking, and to the Commissioner General for the United Kingdom in South East Asia.

I have the honour to be
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

R.O. Barnes

A.A.E. Franklin.

The Right Honourable
Selwyn Lloyd, C.B.E., M.P.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

FC 10316/4

1956

CHINA

FROM Mr. O'Neill
Peking

Chinese Prime Minister and Defence Minister have invited their Egyptian opposite numbers to visit China and the Egyptian government has accepted according to press reports.

No. 291
Dated 25/5/56
Received in Registry— 25/5

(Repld G) Cairo & W/ton)

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

W. E. Symon
26/5

Afr. conf. 28/5.
Dept.

JM May 26.

(Print)

A) The Times of 26/5

(How disposed of)

des
31/5

(Action completed)

(Index)

gg 29/5
16/10/57

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C10316/4

FROM PEKING TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. O'Neill
No. 291
May 25, 1956

D: 4.06 a.m. May 25, 1956
R: 11.23 a.m. May 25, 1956

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 291 of May 25.
Repeated for information Saving to Cairo and Washington.

Sino-Egyptian relations.

Today's Press carries texts of letters from the Chinese Prime Minister and Defence Minister to their Egyptian opposite numbers, inviting them to visit China as and when convenient, and reports that the Egyptian Government has accepted both invitations.

Foreign Office pass Saving to Cairo and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 3 and 89.

[Repeated Saving to Cairo and Washington].

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C 10316/4 F

THE TIMES

Cutting dated 26 MAY 1956, 195

**COL. NASSER TO VISIT
PEKING**

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, MAY 25

Colonel Nasser has accepted an invitation from Mr. Chou En-lai to visit China. It is also officially confirmed that an Egyptian military mission, representing all three services, will also go to Peking.

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FO 371 / 120885

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

FC 10316/5

1956

CHINA

FROM *Sci H. Trevelyan*
Leiso

Egyptian recognition of Communist China
give to developments of Egyptian recognition

No. 175 (C)

Dated *26/5*

Received in
Registry— *28/5*

References to former relevant papers

71

MINUTES

W. e. Symon
29/5

African Dept. 21. 30/5
Eastern Dept. 22. 1/6

May 29.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

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16/1/57

References to later relevant papers

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INWARD SAVING TELEGRAMFROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

By Bag

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan

No. 175 Saving

May 26, 1956

R. May 28, 1956

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 175 Saving of
May 26.

Repeated for information Saving to:

Peking	Washington	Paris
Moscow	P.O.M.E.F.	Amman
Ankara	Bagdad	Beirut
Damascus	Jedda	Khartoum
Tel Aviv	Tripoli	Benghazi
	UKDEL New York	

Egyptian recognition of Government of China's People's Republic.

My telegram No. 855 [of May 17].

All papers of May 25 prominently reported that Nasser would visit the People's Republic of China in response to an invitation from Chou En-lai. In his reply to the invitation Nasser said he believed that it would consolidate Sino-Egyptian cooperation, strengthen cordial relations among Asian and African countries, help maintain universal peace and serve as a proof of the application of the principles of Bandung.

2. In reply to an invitation from the Chinese Minister of Defence it was reported that Major-General Amer, Minister of War, would send a military mission to China and had expressed the hope that the date of this visit could be fixed in the near future.

3. Recent press reports have also foreshadowed strengthening of Sino-Egyptian cultural relations. The Egyptian Ministry of Education is to send a three-man mission to teach Arabic

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Cairo telegram No. 175 Saving to Foreign Office

-2-

and Islamic subjects at Peking University, together with a Professor of Egyptology. An Egyptian literary and cultural mission of 60 - 100 members will reportedly visit China in the autumn. The Egyptian Fine Arts Department is organising an exhibition in Peking in October.

4. The Egyptian Minister of Commerce was reported as saying that recognition would prove instrumental in developing Sino-Egyptian trade relations.

5. There has been much editorial comment, Gomhouria in particular continuing to link Egypt's action in recognising China with recent Western moves to supply arms to Israel. Gomhouria also has led the way in interpreting recognition as a crushing blow to Western imperialism and its supporters. Egypt, according to Rose el Youssef was the shield of Western Asia and could not but recognise the shield of Eastern Asia - China. Gomhouria and Tahrir both described Chang Kai-shek and his supporters as outlaws and gangsters. Only Kahira of April 19 departed from this line and called Chang a great man who ought to crown his honourable actions in the past by giving up the activities against his country in which he was engaged.

6. Considerable prominence was given to international reactions particularly in the Arab world and the West.

7. Ahram today reported that the Secretariat General of the Arab League had been informed that Saudi Arabia would follow Egypt's example in recognising People's Republic of China (and had also almost completed arrangements for exchange of diplomatic representation with the Soviet Union).

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

FC 10316/6

1956

CHINA

FROM F.O. minute
by Mr. Scrivener

States that Mr. Knox of the U.S. Embassy
has said that Egyptian recognition of Red
China has made a very bad effect in the U.S.

No.

Dated 33/5

Received in 29/5
Registry—

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

A. C. Symon

30/5

M. J. J.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

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16/10/57

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

enter

Minutes.

FC 10316/6

When Mr. Knox of the United States Embassy came to see United Nations Department this afternoon on another matter he mentioned, with particular reference to the Aswan High Dam, the very bad effect made in the United States by the Egyptian decision to recognise Communist China and the manner in which this had, as regards the Palestine dispute, put up Israel's stock.

R.S.

(R.S. Scrivener)
May 23, 1956.

(African Dept.

Levant Dept.

23/5

RE: MEX - you may wish to retain.

Mr Mak told me to-day that

Mr Dulles had spoken "very severely indeed" (twice repeated) to Ambassador Ahmad Hussein who was about to leave Washington for Cairo for consultations.

M. D.A.H. Wright.

24/5

23/5

23/5

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

FC 10316/7

1956

CHINA

FROM Mr. Parnes
JeddaRecognition of Red China + Diplomatic relations with the
Soviet UnionNo. 12 (5)
Dated 4/6
Received in
Registry— 2/6Radio Jedda has stated officially that there was no
truth in Alwan's announcement.

References to former relevant papers

5

MINUTES

W. E. Symon
8/6Eastern Dept. 12/6
African Dept. 12/6A. L. M.
9/6

(Print)

(How disposed of)

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completed)

W. E. 14/6

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W. E.
16/10/57

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FC 10316/7

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INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM
FROM JEDDA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

By Bag

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Parkes

No. 12 Saving
June 4, 1956

R. June 6, 1956

Addressed to Foreign Office Saving telegram No.
12 of June 4.

Repeated for information Saving to Cairo Moscow
Peking UKDel New York
Washington POMEF

-15
Cairo telegram No. 175 Saving to you: paragraph
7: Recognition of People's Republic of China and
diplomatic relations with Soviet Union.

Radio Mecca referred on June 2 to Ahram's
announcement. It was stated officially that there was
no truth in it.

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

CHINA

F 10316/8

1956

FROM Sir H. Trevelyan

Cairo

SECRET

No. 81 (10321/7456)

Dated 5/6
Received in Registry— 8/6

gives the course of events leading up to the recognition of Communist China and also of events immediately following the recognition.

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

Sent for print F.O.W.H.

The Egyptian recognition of the Chinese Communist seems to have been a mistaken and miscalculated manoeuvre. China is a distant and untried purveyor of arms; and careful negotiations with the Chinese Communist Trade Mission in Cairo would probably have obtained as much without the penalty of a rap on the knuckles from Mr. Dulles.

So far, no other Arab country has followed Egypt's lead; but some undoubtedly will. This will prejudice the success of future "unanimous" resolutions on Chinese representation in the United Nations.

D. E. Symon

12/6

African Dept. 10/6
American Dept. 11/6
M.A.D. 12/6

48996

10316

(Print)
Print F.O.W.H.

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If the explanation in para 2 is correct, this would seem to have been a calculated manoeuvre on the part of the Russians to worsen Egyptian - U.S. relations.

James Munroe
June 13.

Altman
13/6

OT Cur
13/6

Li¹⁴/6

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BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

No. 81 ✓

June 5, 1956.

(10321/72/56)

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FC10316/8

Sir,

On the 16th of May the Egyptian Government recognised Communist China. For some time it had been clear that the date when they would take this action was only a matter of tactics. Colonel Nasser met Chou En Lai at Bandoeng in April 1955. In May, the Egyptian Minister of Wakfs visited Peking and signed an Agreed Minute there on cultural exchanges. In August an Egyptian Trade Mission, led by the Minister of Commerce, visited Peking and signed a Trade Agreement between the Egyptian and Chinese Governments. In January 1956 a "Chinese Trade Organisation Office" was opened in Cairo, a member of which had formerly been Assistant Head of the European Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In March 1956 a Chinese Trade Delegation, led by the Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade visited Cairo and a large trade and industrial fair was opened on the 1st of April. The Chinese Trade Office was at the same time allowed certain diplomatic facilities. In April too a new Sino-Egyptian Cultural Agreement was signed in Cairo by the Egyptian Minister of Education and the leader of a Chinese Cultural Delegation, and Chinese opera was performed in Cairo. Meanwhile trade between Egypt and China was increasing. Egyptian exports rose from nearly £E 4 million in 1954 to over £E 8½ million in 1955. For a substantial part of these imports China was prepared to pay in sterling. During all this time the Chinese Government received a good press.

2. So recognition was not unexpected, but nobody would have expected it to take place on the eve of the debate in the United States Congress on the Farm Bill, containing clauses detrimental to Egypt's cotton interests. The Egyptian Ambassador to Washington told me that he was confident that Senator Knowland would have proposed amendments

.../favourable

The Rt. Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, C.B.E., M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

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Ref.:

FO 371 / 120885

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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favourable to Egypt if it had not been for the Egyptian Government's action on China. Colonel Nasser told me, and there is plenty of confirmatory evidence, that the decision was taken solely in order that the Egyptian Government might have an alternative source of supply of arms if a Middle Eastern arms embargo were proposed by the United Nations. From other sources it appears that the Soviet Ambassador gave Colonel Nasser an account of those portions of the conversations in London with Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Krushchev which related to the Middle East. The Russians told him that the Prime Minister had asked them to stop supplying arms to Egypt, that they might have to do so and that, if not, they might have to agree to an embargo in the United Nations. So the Egyptians would be well advised to look to China for an alternative source of supply. Since then, the Egyptians have been told by several people that they had much less to fear than they had supposed from the idea of a United Nations arms embargo. I trust that they now feel that the Russians have persuaded them to throw away a valuable card to their own detriment on insufficient grounds.

3. The Egyptian press celebrated the occasion by adopting the complete Communist line on the brigands of Formosa, though this was perhaps in part induced by the sharp public reaction by Formosa to their recognition of the Chinese Communists. They have engaged also, as usual, in the interminable process of justification of their actions. I have taken some pleasure in telling some members of the Egyptian Government that, while their press has been dilating on the confusion caused by their action in the imperialist ranks, my colleagues have been congratulating me light-heartedly upon the alignment of Egyptian with British foreign policy. The fact that Her Majesty's Government recognised China in 1950 has not been a noticeable feature of the Egyptian press comment on this occasion.

4. Simultaneously with this action, it was announced that a Military Mission would visit China and it has been announced that the first Egyptian Ambassador and the leader of the

.../Military

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5. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives at Washington, Paris, Peking and Tamsui and to the Political Officer with the Middle East Forces.

Hampden Sewell Jan.

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FC 10316/8

BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

No. 81

(10321/72/56)

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 5, 1956.

Received June 8

C. T. Carr
11/6
Egyptian Recognition of Communist China

Sir,

On the 16th of May the Egyptian Government recognised Communist China. For some time it had been clear that the date when they would take this action was only a matter of tactics. Colonel Nasser met Chou En Lai at Bandoeng in April 1955. In May, the Egyptian Minister of Wakfs visited Peking and signed an Agreed Minute there on cultural exchanges. In August an Egyptian Trade Mission, led by the Minister of Commerce, visited Peking and signed a Trade Agreement between the Egyptian and Chinese Governments. In January 1956 a "Chinese Trade Organisation Office" was opened in Cairo, a member of which had formerly been Assistant Head of the European Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In March 1956 a Chinese Trade Delegation, led by the Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade, visited Cairo and a large trade and industrial fair was opened on the 1st of April. The Chinese Trade Office was at the same time allowed certain diplomatic facilities. In April too a new Sino-Egyptian Cultural Agreement was signed in Cairo by the Egyptian Minister of Education and the leader of a Chinese Cultural Delegation, and Chinese opera was performed in Cairo. Meanwhile trade between Egypt and China was increasing. Egyptian exports rose from nearly £E 4 million in 1954 to over £E 8½ million in 1955. For a substantial part of these imports China was prepared to pay in sterling. During all this time the Chinese Government received a good press.

2. So recognition was not unexpected, but nobody would have expected it to take place on the eve of the debate in the United States Congress on the Farm Bill, containing clauses detrimental to Egypt's cotton interests. The Egyptian Ambassador to Washington told me that he was confident that Senator Knowland would have proposed amendments

.../favourable

The Rt. Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, C.B.E., M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

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Military Mission will be Major-General Hassan Ragab, who led Missions to Moscow and Prague in the autumn of 1955 for the procurement of arms.

5. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives at Washington, Paris, Peking and Tamsui and to the Political Officer with the Middle East Forces.

etc.

I have ~~the honour to be~~
with the highest respect,

Sir,

~~Your obedient Servant,~~

Humphrey Trevelyan.

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Foreign Office and Whitehall Distribution

CHINA

June 8, 1956

Section 1

FC 10316/8

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EGYPTIAN RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA

Sir Humphrey Trevelyan to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd. (Received June 8)

(No. 81. Secret)

Cairo,

Sir,

June 5, 1956.

On the 16th of May the Egyptian Government recognised Communist China. For some time it had been clear that the date when they would take this action was only a matter of tactics. Colonel Nasser met Chou En-lai at Bandoeng in April 1955. In May the Egyptian Minister of Wakfs visited Peking and signed an Agreed Minute there on cultural exchanges. In August an Egyptian Trade Mission, led by the Minister of Commerce, visited Peking and signed a trade agreement between the Egyptian and Chinese Governments. In January 1956 a "Chinese Trade Organisation Office" was opened in Cairo, a member of which had formerly been Assistant Head of the European Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In March 1956 a Chinese Trade Delegation, led by the Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade, visited Cairo and a large trade and industrial fair was opened on the 1st of April. The Chinese Trade Office was at the same time allowed certain diplomatic facilities. In April too a new Sino-Egyptian Cultural Agreement was signed in Cairo by the Egyptian Minister of Education and the leader of a Chinese Cultural Delegation and Chinese opera was performed in Cairo. Meanwhile trade between Egypt and China was increasing. Egyptian exports rose from nearly £E.4 million in 1954 to over £E.8½ million in 1955. For a substantial part of these imports China was prepared to pay in sterling. During all this time the Chinese Government received a good press.

2. So recognition was not unexpected, but nobody would have expected it to take place on the eve of the debate in the United States Congress on the Farm Bill, containing clauses detrimental to Egypt's cotton interests. The Egyptian Ambassador to Washington told me that he was confident that Senator Knowland would have

proposed amendments favourable to Egypt if it had not been for the Egyptian Government's action in China. Colonel Nasser told me, and there is plenty of confirmatory evidence, that the decision was taken solely in order that the Egyptian Government might have an alternative source of supply of arms if a Middle Eastern arms embargo were proposed by the United Nations. From other sources it appears that the Soviet Ambassador gave Colonel Nasser an account of those portions of the conversations in London with Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev which related to the Middle East. The Russians told him that the Prime Minister had asked them to stop supplying arms to Egypt, that they might have to do so and that, if not, they might have to agree to an embargo in the United Nations. So the Egyptians would be well advised to look to China for an alternative source of supply. Since then, the Egyptians have been told by several people that they had much less to fear than they had supposed from the idea of a United Nations arms embargo. I trust that they now feel that the Russians have persuaded them to throw away a valuable card to their own detriment on insufficient grounds.

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4. Simultaneously with this action, it was announced that a Military Mission would visit China and it has been announced that the first Egyptian Ambassador and the leader of the Military Mission will be Major-General Hassan Ragab, who led

Missions to Moscow and Prague in the autumn of 1955 for the procurement of arms.

5. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives at Washington, Paris, Peking and Tamsui and to the Political Officer with the Middle East Forces.

I have, &c.

HUMPHREY TREVELYAN.

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FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT

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C 10316/9

CHINA

FROM

Mr. O'Heill
Peking

No. 160 11033/8/56

Dated 29 May, 1956

Received in
Registry 15/6

References to former relevant papers

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(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

8/21/6

(Index)

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16/10/57

References to later relevant papers

LAST PAPER

Enclosed texts of letters addressed by the Chinese Prime Minister and Minister of Defense inviting Egyptian Prime Minister and Minister of Defense to visit China. Also enclosed is a copy of his accepting invitations by Colonel Kanner and Mr. Abdul Hakim Amer, and the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 17 welcoming Egyptian acceptance of the invitation.

MINUTES

D. C. Symon
15/6

African Sept. 20/6

June 18.

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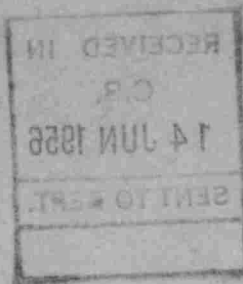


Despatch No. 160
(1033/8/56)
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,

PEKING.

May 29, 1956.



FC/0316/9

Sir,

As I reported in my telegram No. 291 of the 25th of May the Chinese press published on that day the texts of letters addressed by the Chinese Prime Minister and Minister of Defence to the Egyptian Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, inviting them to visit China. I enclose these texts, and also the texts of the replies accepting the invitations sent by Colonel Nasser and ~~Mr.~~ Abdel Hakim Amer, which were delivered to the Chinese Government by the Egyptian Commercial representative on the 25th of May. It seems likely from these letters that the visits will take place separately.

2. I also enclose the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 17th of May welcoming the Egyptian Government's recognition of China.

3. I am sending a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Cairo.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

The Right Honourable

Selwyn Lloyd, Q.C., C.B.E., M.P.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Foreign Office,

London, S.W.1

C. Reilly

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Extract from the "HSINHUA NEWS AGENCY RELEASE" of
Friday, 25th May, 1956.

**052414 Letters to Egyptian Prime Minister
and Minister of Army and Navy**

Peking, May 24 — Premier Chou En-lai and Minister of Defence Peng Teh-huai of the People's Republic of China sent on May 18 letters of invitation to Prime Minister Nasser and General Amer, Minister of the Army and the Navy of the Republic of Egypt. The text of Chou En-lai's letter follows:

His Excellency Gamal Abdel Nasser,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Egypt
Excellency:

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, I have the honour to invite you, Mr. Prime Minister, to visit China on behalf of the Egyptian Government. I am convinced that your visit to China will not only contribute to the further development of the friendly relations between our two countries, but also be of great significance in promoting friendly cooperation among Asian and African countries and safeguarding world peace.

The Chinese people will be greatly honoured if Your Excellency should accept the invitation of the Chinese Government. We are fully ready to arrange the date and programme of your visit to China according to your desire. I eagerly await your reply.

I take this opportunity to send you, Mr. Prime Minister, my high respects.

(Signed)
Chou En-lai,
Premier of the State Council of
the People's Republic of China.

The text of Peng Teh-huai's letter follows:
His Excellency General Abdel Hakim Amer,
Minister of the Army and the Navy of the
Republic of Egypt.

Excellency:

On behalf of the Ministry of Defence of the People's Republic of China, I have the honour to

invite a military delegation of your Government to visit China. We sincerely hope you will accept this invitation. It is requested that the date of the visit of your military delegation to China be arranged in accordance with your convenience. I am convinced that the visit of a military delegation of your country will further increase the friendship between the peoples and the armed forces of our two countries and contribute to the safeguarding of world peace.

Accept, Excellency, my high respects.

(Signed)
Peng Teh-huai,
Minister of Defence of the
People's Republic of China
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Extract from the "HSINHUA NEWS AGENCY RELEASE"
of SATURDAY, 26th, MAY 1956.

052519 Egyptian Leaders Accept Invitation To Visit China

Peking, May 25 — Egyptian Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser has replied to Premier Chou En-lai accepting his invitation to visit this country, according to a Foreign Ministry press release today.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Defence Minister Abdel Hakim Amer has also replied to Defence Minister Marshal Peng Teh-huai accepting his invitation for an Egyptian military delegation to visit China.

Their letters, dated May 24, were delivered to Vice Foreign Minister Chang Wen-tien by the Egyptian Commercial Representative, Mr. Farr, here today.

The full text of Prime Minister Nasser's letter reads:

Cairo, May 24, 1956.

His Excellency Chou En-lai,
Premier of the State Council of
the People's Republic of China.

Excellency:

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Egypt, I have the pleasure to accept your invitation to visit your country. I am convinced that the exchange of these visits will not only increase the useful cooperation between our two countries, but will also contribute to the further development of the friendly relations among Asian and African Countries with the ultimate aim of safeguarding world peace and upholding the principles of Bandung.

I take this opportunity to express to the Great Chinese Nation the best wishes of the Egyptian People, and I hope to answer your invitation in the near future.

Kindly accept, Mr. Prime Minister, my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Gamal Abdel Nasser,
Prime Minister of Egypt.

The full text of Defence Minister Abdel Hakim Amer's letter reads:

Cairo, May 24, 1956.

His Excellency Marshal Peng Teh-huai,
Minister of Defence of
the People's Republic of China, Peking.

Excellency:

On behalf of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Egypt, I have the honour to accept your invitation for an Egyptian military delegation to visit your country and I hope to be able in the near future to fix the exact date of the visit. I am convinced that the exchange of visits by military delegations will further increase the friendship between the peoples and the armed forces of our two countries and contribute to the safeguard of world peace.

Kindly accept, Excellency, my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Abdel Hakim Amer,
Minister of Defence of the
Republic of Egypt end item

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